

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for making a wood slat, the method comprising:

providing a first bulk section of wood having joining marks that appear in a face plane, the joining marks resulting from rejoining shorter blocks of wood to form the bulk section;

cutting the first bulk section along first parallel planes in a successive first order to form a plurality of first slats each having a face plane;

joining the face planes of the first slats in an order different than the first order to create a new bulk section in the form of a laminate; and

cutting the new bulk section along second parallel planes to form the wood slat, the second parallel planes being generally transverse to the first parallel planes such that the joining marks are substantially hidden in the wood slat.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of making a wood slat having hidden joining marks of claim [[8]]_7, wherein the first bulk section is in the form of a rectangular block.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of making a wood slat having hidden joining marks of claim [[8]]_7, wherein each of the plurality of wood slats has a thin rectangular shape.

13. (Currently Amended) A wood slat prepared by a process comprising:
providing a bulk section of wood having joining marks that appear in a face plane, the joining marks resulting from rejoining shorter blocks of wood to form the bulk section;

cutting successive sections of the bulk section of wood, the sections defining first parallel planes and forming a plurality of individual wood pieces;

rejoining the plurality of individual wood pieces in a different order to form a new bulk section; and

cutting the new bulk section along second parallel planes, the second parallel planes being transverse to the first parallel planes so that the wood slat has a desirable veneer appearance that the joining marks are substantially hidden in the wood slat.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Original) The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein said bulk section is in the form of a rectangular block.

16. (Currently Amended) The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of wood pieces ~~have~~ has a thin rectangular shape.

17. (Previously presented) The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein the second cutting step provides the wood slat with a thin rectangular shape.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the second parallel planes are generally perpendicular to the first parallel planes.

21. (Previously presented) The wood slat of claim 17, wherein the second parallel planes are generally perpendicular to the first parallel planes.

22. (Currently amended) A finished wood slat, comprising:
multiple first manufactured wood slats each having a first face plane and at least one zig-zag joining line exposed on the first face plane,
the multiple first manufactured wood slats being re-ordered and laminated together and sliced along a direction perpendicular to the first face planes of the first manufactured wood slats to produce second manufactured wood slats each having a second face plane free of any exposed zig-zag joining lines, the second manufactured wood slats being the finished wood slat.

23. (Currently amended) A finished wood slat, ~~comprising~~ having:
a long thin rectangular shaped having a final face of the finished wood slat,
wherein
the final face being defined by periphery edges of a plurality of first manufactured slats each having a face plane containing joining marks in an undesirable pattern, and
wherein
the face planes being generally transverse to the periphery edges of the first manufactured slats so that the undesirable patterns of the joining marks are not exposed in the final face of the finished wood slat.

24. (Previously presented) The wood slat of claim 21, wherein the undesirable pattern of the joining marks is a zig-zag pattern.

25. (Previously presented) The wood slat of claim 21, wherein the long thin rectangular shape is a laminate.

26. (Currently amended) The wood slat of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 25, wherein the laminate is formed with at least one adhesion plane joining the face planes of an adjacent pair of the first manufactured slats.

27. (Currently amended) The wood slat of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 23, wherein the plurality of first manufactured slats are selectively cut to preferred dimensions, and wherein the finished wood slat is selectively cut to preferred dimensions.

28. (Currently amended) The finished wood slat of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 23, wherein the ~~second parallel planes are generally perpendicular to the first parallel planes~~ face planes are perpendicular to the periphery edges of the first manufactured slats.